

REMARKS

Claim 1 remains pending in the present application. Claim 2 has been cancelled. Claim 1 has been amended. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed.

DRAWINGS

Applicant includes a new sheet of drawings with the changes made in red for the Examiner's approval.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected Claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, alleging it to be indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has cancelled Claim 2 and believes this rejection to now be moot.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Okabe (U.S. Patent No. 5,820,411) and also Fukuda (U.S. Patent No. 6,165,011).

Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 1 further defines the retainer to include the guide surface wherein the guide surface is cantilevered from the retainer. The retainer has a regulation part aligned with the cantilever to enter a portion of the jig insertion opening to exert a force on the deformable lance in the locked position with the female terminal to prohibit removal of the female terminal. An insertion hole is positioned under

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached "Replacement Sheet" of drawings includes changes to Figures 17(A) and 17(B). The attached "Replacement Sheet," which includes Figures 17(A) and 17(B), replaces the original sheet including Figures 17(A) and 17(B).

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

the guide surface and adjacent the regulation part to provide a bore through the retainer into the jig insertion opening when the retainer is in a temporarily locked condition. The insertion hole enables the jig to pass into the jig insertion opening in a substantially straight manner substantially eliminating angling of the jig to contact the lance to enable removal of the lance from the female terminal which, in turn, enables removal of the female terminal from the connector housing.

The art cited by the Examiner fails to disclose or suggest Applicant's invention. Both the Okabe and Fukuda references disclose insertion holes in the retainers which are totally separate from the guide surface. The guide surface is separated by a wall and is not cantilevered from the retainer. Thus, two holes are required and the jig must be angled in order to remove the lance from the female connector. In the present invention, as illustrated in Figure 16, the jig, when it is inserted into the insertion opening, has direct access to the lance enabling the lance to be removed from the female connector. This is unlike those of the prior art. Accordingly, Applicant believes Claim 1 to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the pending claim is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully request the Examiner pass the case to issue at his earliest possible convenience. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present application, he should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

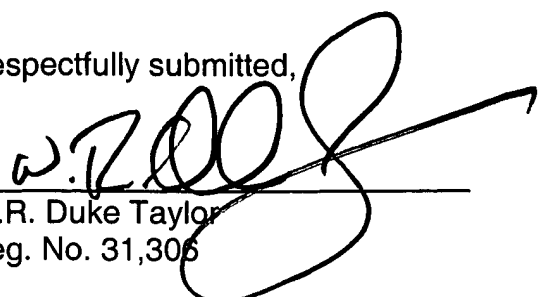
Dated: OCT 5, 2004

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

WRDT/lkj

Respectfully submitted,

By:


W.R. Duke Taylor
Reg. No. 31,306